

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION: Comparing and Contrasting Cognitive and Personality Functioning in Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

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This study utilized the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fourth Edition (WISC-IV) and the Personality Inventory for Children, Second Edition (PIC-2) as measures of cognitive and personality functioning for children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder with comorbid Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (FASD/ADHD) and children with ADHD. This study revealed the WISC-IV and PIC-2 each provided unique information to the neuropsychological examination of children with FASD/ADHD and ADHD. Furthermore, the FASD/ADHD group and the ADHD group were found to have significant differences in terms of cognitive and personality functioning. The results also indicated the groups could be differentiated using the WISC-IV and the PIC-2 independently with a high degree of accuracy. The current study further elucidated the unique cognitive and personality profiles of children with FASD/ADHD and ADHD and identified key areas of difference between the two groups. Moreover, the current study documented the utility of the Classification and Regression Tree procedure as a useful diagnostic tool in the differential diagnosis of FASD versus ADHD using commonly used cognitive and personality measures.